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HISTORY OF WARREN,  
RHODE ISLAND,  
IN THE WAR  
OF  
THE REVOLUTION, 1776-1783,

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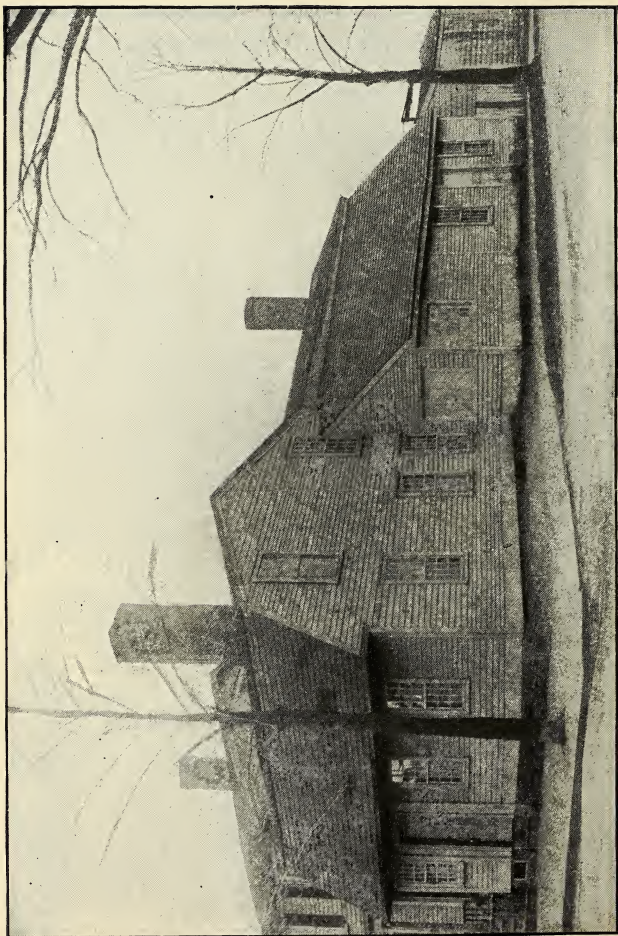
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BY VIRGINIA BAKER.



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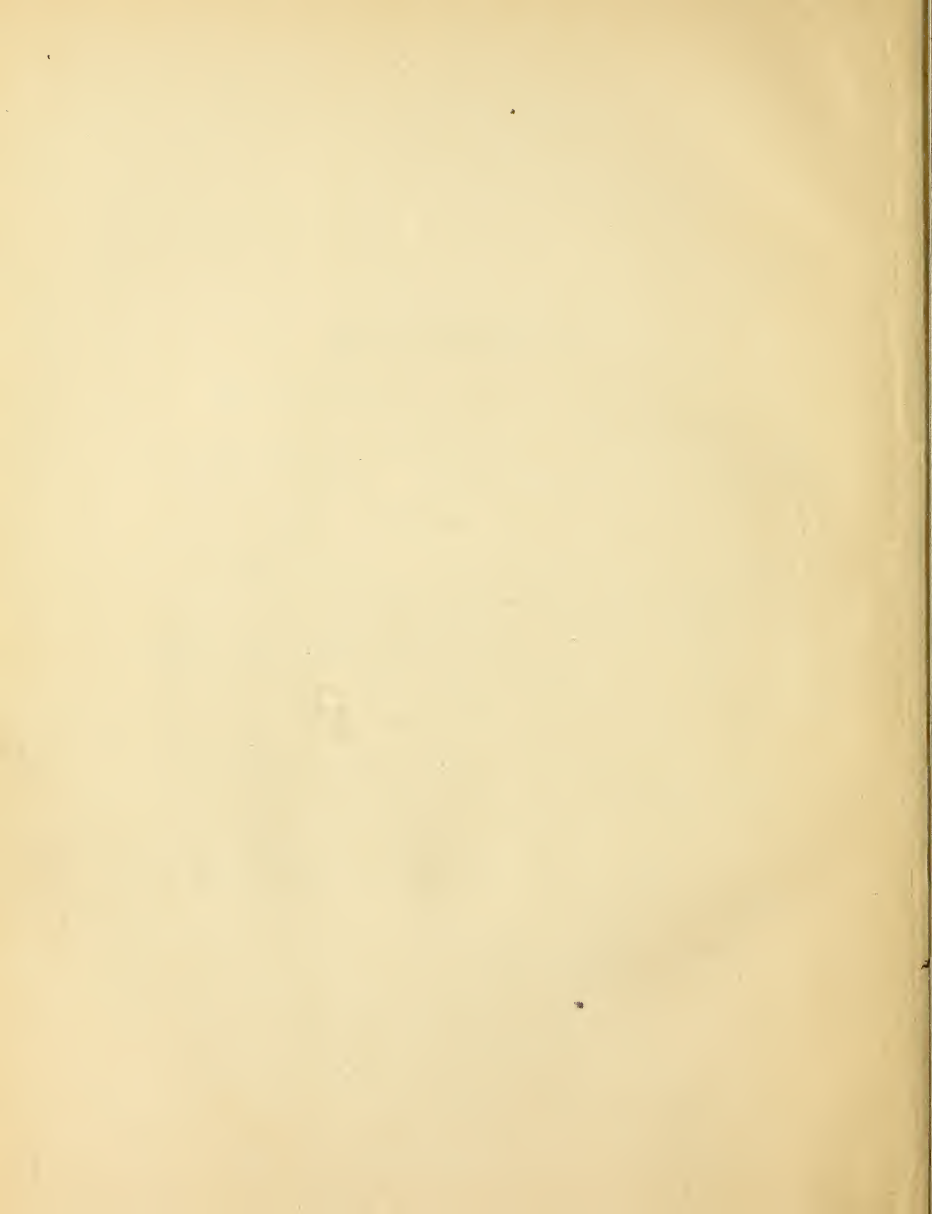


AUTHOR'S NOTE.

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The material composing this sketch has been collected from various sources. Among authorities consulted may be mentioned Rhode Island Colonial, and Warren Town Records, Arnold's "History of Rhode Island," Fessenden's "History of Warren," the "Spirit of '76," "Our French Allies," the "Diary of Col. Israel Angell," files of the "Providence Gazette," and Warren "Northern Star," manuscript notes of Gen. G. M. Fessenden, and unpublished letters, documents, etc., of the Revolutionary period. The author desires to express her gratitude to those persons who, by the loan of private papers, have assisted her in her work.

Warren, March, 1901.



## THE HISTORY OF WARREN, RHODE ISLAND, IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION, 1776-1783.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Warren, Rhode Island, was one of the most flourishing towns on the New England sea-coast. Though within its limits agricultural pursuits were followed to some extent, the inhabitants were chiefly employed in the various branches of maritime trade. The building of vessels was an important industry, and the Warren ship-yards were justly noted for the variety and excellence of the craft launched from their stocks. Remote, indeed, were the regions unpenetrated by the hardy sailors of the little seaport, which was engaged in coasting, in the West India and merchant service, and in the whale fishery. To a community almost entirely dependent upon favorable commercial conditions for its existence the breaking out of war with the mother country was a most alarming portent, threatening serious disaster if not ultimate ruin.

The pioneer settlers of Swansea, Massachusetts, of which town Warren originally formed a part, were a strong and steadfast race of men, resolute, courageous, and liberty loving. The characteristics so marked in them descended to their posterity. Naturally, therefore, at the outset, the inhabitants

of Warren quietly but firmly resisted the oppressive policy of George III, though no people more fully realized the dangers that would beset them in the event of an open rupture with England. The sentiments of the citizens were first openly voiced in January, 1774, when, following the example of Newport and Providence, Warren held a public meeting to consider the tea question, at which the right of Parliament to tax the American colonies was emphatically denied. When a few months later the odious Port Bill closed Boston harbor against all commerce, Warren was among the first localities in Rhode Island to render material assistance to the distressed town. It is a noteworthy fact that throughout the entire Revolutionary period the inhabitants of Warren acted unanimously in defending their rights. Indeed, tradition asserts that but one native of the place was ever proved to have cherished Tory principles and, so far as can be ascertained, tradition in this instance is correct.

Although a maritime community Warren could boast an honorable military record. The opening scenes of that terrible tragedy, King Philip's War, had been enacted within its limits. It had sent stalwart sons to Louisburg and Crown Point. So when armed resistance to British misrule became necessary, the sturdy little seaport was not unprepared to do its share in the struggle for liberty.

The news of the Battle of Lexington created in Rhode Island, as elsewhere, the most intense excitement. Throughout the colony active preparations for military service were begun. Ammunition was distributed to all the towns, Warren's proportion being 24 pounds of powder, 38 pounds of lead, and 152 flints. The General Assembly voted to raise an "Army of Observation" to consist of 1,500 men. One regiment was enlisted in the counties of Newport and Bristol under Col. Thomas Church, William Turner Miller of Warren being appointed Lieutenant-Colonel. A committee of safety consisting of two members from Providence and one from each of the other counties was appointed, and the several towns adopted such precautionary measures as they deemed advisable. At a Town Meeting held in Warren, June 5, 1775, it was voted to purchase "six good guns" for the town. Fearing possible attack from the British fleet under Wallace which occupied the bay it was voted, Nov. 20th, to keep a watch in the town and Daniel Cole and Samuel Miller were appointed to "decide how often each man should watch." Captain Ezra Ormsbee was selected to "have the care of sd. watch and to Notify the people when they should watch," and how many should "Stand upon the watch in one night." The penalty for refusing to watch was fixed at three shillings. Captain Ormsbee was required

"to Provide wood for the sd. watch," and was empowered to "furnish the watch house that is built in Bristol by the inhabitants of Warren and to build a Centry Box." The watch house stood upon one of the elevations still known as "Burr's Hills," located on the east bank of Warren river and now included within the limits of that part of the town termed South Warren. It commanded a view of Narragansett Bay and the shores of Bristol and Barrington. During the previous year a "Trained Band" \* had been formed in Warren, and there was also in the town a company of "Alarm Men." Many members of the Alarm company were mere striplings. Some of the firearms that appeared at "trainings" had seen service at Crown Point and Ticonderoga. The men utilized as flints the Indian arrow-heads which abounded in the vicinity of Burr's Hills and along the shores of Belcher's Cove and the Kickemuit river.

On January 12, 1776, about 250 British troops from Wallace's fleet landed on Prudence Island where they burned seven dwellings, dispersed a company of minute men, and seized a number of sheep. On the following day reinforcements from Warren and Bristol proceeded in whaleboats and other craft

\*The officers of the Trained Band, in 1775 were Amos Haile, Captain; John Ormsbee, Lieutenant; Smith Bowen, Ensign.



to the island and an action ensued which lasted three hours. The British were driven off with a loss of fourteen killed and several wounded, the Americans losing only four killed and one taken prisoner. On the next night two houses on Patience Island were fired by the enemy. Fearing that Bristol might be attacked the troops were withdrawn from Prudence and stationed in that town. The General Assembly appointed a committee to draft a memorial to Congress representing the inability of Rhode Island, "from its situation, smallness, and poverty" to defend itself, and praying for assistance. Sylvester Child, one of the Deputies from Warren, was a member of this committee. His colleagues were Deputy Governor Bradford, Henry Ward, William Ellery, Joseph Brown, Henry Marchant and Gideon Mumford.

The seaboard towns now redoubled their precautions. In Town Meeting, Feb. 5th, it was voted that the Town Council of Warren should "make a list of all persons in the town who were not able to equip themselves with arms and accoutrements according to law." The Council reported only two individuals who lacked the necessary equipment and the town supplied them with "two good firearms with bayonets and cartuch boxes." It was also voted to raise an Artillery company in the town, of which Daniel Fisk was chosen Captain and Benajah Cole, Lieutenant. On May 6th, the Town Treasurer was

ordered to "employ Suitable Persons to make up the powder and Balls into Carteriges Belonging to the town stock as soon as Conveniently May Be" and all persons possessing lead or bullets were desired to bring them to the Town Treasurer who was directed to purchase them. It was voted also that "all the Militia and Alarm men should Bring their guns to the town treasurer at or Before the fifteenth Day of this instant May in order that their Carteriges May be Made."

The scarcity of provisions at this time had become a serious question. Common salt, alone, commanded six dollars per bushel. To prevent extortion the General Assembly at length took charge of this necessary commodity, and sold it to the various towns at six shillings per bushel. Warren's proportion was fifty bushels, and on July 1st William Turner Miller was appointed to divide the salt among the different families in town. It was voted that all persons who should neglect to make application for salt by July 12th should be refused a share, and the Town Clerk was directed to "Set up three advertisements in three Publick Places in the Town to Notify the inhabitants of the promises."

The population of Warren at this time (1776) was 1,005 including slaves. The town was required by law to furnish ten men for military service, but in September it was voted to increase the number to



twelve. Ten shillings were allowed to every soldier found able to "Equip himself With a Gun, Bayonet, and Cartuch Box," and ten shillings in addition to each man for the "Use of a Blanket and Napsack." In October the Deputies were requested to tender the Test Act to all male citizens, and the Town Clerk was directed to "make record of the number of Guns, Cartuch Boxes, Blankets, and Napsacks Belonging to the town." William Turner Miller was authorized to make a second distribution of salt, it being stipulated, however, that "No Person Be allowed to Receive Salt that Refused to Subscribe the Test Act."

The appearance, on December 2d, of seven ships of the line and four frigates in the vicinity of Block Island caused widespread consternation throughout Rhode Island. The militia was at once called to arms. On December 8th, the enemy landed at Newport and took possession of the town. American troops were despatched to Tiverton, Bristol, and other points on the coast. Many inhabitants of Newport took refuge on the main land. The court records of Newport County were hastily transported to Warren, but the exposed situation of the town caused the Assembly to order the Clerk of the Court to remove them "to some safer place further distant from Rhode Island."

At a later date a guard of sixteen men was sta-

tioned at Warren, and the row-galley Washington was sent to protect the entrances to Warren and Kickemuit rivers. On the 2d of April, 1777, an explosion occurred on board the galley by which eight lives were destroyed. The vessel was, however, afterward repaired, schooner rigged, and put in service again. The bodies of the unfortunate victims of this accident were buried on the west shore of Kickemuit river near the "narrows" of the stream, not far from the scene of the disaster.

The Artillery company, which had previously been supplied with two field pieces, was furnished with drums, colors, and an ammunition cart. Recruiting was briskly carried on in the town and there was scarcely a household that had not one or more members engaged in military service. It must not be imagined that while the men of Warren devoted themselves to the cause of liberty, the women displayed a less patriotic spirit. Though debarred from carrying muskets their hands were not idle, as the number of stout woolen stockings and other articles of clothing furnished by them to the troops amply testified.

Provisions still continued scarce, while the increase of current expenses rendered necessary a proportionate increase of taxes. The poll tax which had been fixed at 6s. 5d. was raised to 12 shillings. A number of flat-bottomed boats for use of the state

were this year constructed at the shipyard of Cromwell Child. These boats were destined to play an important part in the history of Warren. The capture of the British General Prescott by Lieut. Col. William Barton in July, raised the hopes of Rhode Islanders, Warren being especially gratified at this brilliant achievement of one of her sons. An expedition under Gen. Spencer against Rhode Island was planned and, in October, a number of boats, including those built at Warren, were collected at Tiverton. Unfavorable weather, however, delayed the execution of the scheme which was finally abandoned.

With the opening of another year (1778) a new danger confronted Warren. Small-pox, that scourge of the olden times, made its appearance. On January 3d, it was voted that inoculation for the disease "be set up Within the Town," and Col. Nathan Miller was appointed "to Prepare an Inoculatory Hospital under the direction of the Council." The site selected for this hospital was a point on the right bank of the Kickemuit river a few rods north of the present pumping station. It was also voted to fine any person receiving one ill of small-pox into his house the sum of £50.

It being deemed expedient to attempt a second expedition against Rhode Island the flat-bottomed boats before alluded to, about seventy in number,

were brought up the Kickemuit river and moored near the stone bridge, to which point a quantity of tar and other stores was transported. Great secrecy was preserved in regard to their plans by the Americans. But, unfortunately, there lurked within their midst an enemy in disguise. The school master of Warren was an Englishman named Holland. Despite his nationality, he professed allegiance to the patriot cause, and was generally believed to be sincere in his professions. He discovered the designs of the Americans and found means to communicate his knowledge to Gen. Pigot, the commander of the British forces on Rhode Island, who at once determined to frustrate the schemes of his opponents.

On Monday, the 25th of May, a party of British and Hessians troops numbering about 500, under command of Lieut. Col. Campbell, were despatched by boat from Newport to Bristol where they arrived before daybreak, and landing near Peck's Rocks marched up Bristol Neck towards Warren. On reaching the Gorham farm, they paused and raised a sheet from the chimney of the farm house as a signal to their shipping in the bay that all was well. They then resumed their line of march and entered Warren, rousing the terrified inhabitants with their loud huzzas for King George. At the centre of the town Campbell divided his forces into parties. One detachment was sent to guard Kelley's ferry in the

north part, while a second hastened to the foot of King, now Washington street, where was another ferry known as Carr's ferry.\* The greater portion of the troops were, however, hurried through Market street to Kickemuit, where they piled the unfortunate flat-bottomed boats together and burned them with the row-galley Washington, and a quantity of tar, pitch, and other stores. They then set fire to two dwelling houses and a grist mill near the lower bridge. Tradition relates that the terrified miller when he saw his property about to be destroyed cried out, "Spare the mill, brothers!" "Brothers," repeated one of the soldiers, "Do you call us that? If we are your brothers we shall do you a favor by taking you out of this nest of rebels," and he beckoned to his companions who immediately made the poor miller their prisoner. In the attic of the Phinney farm house near the bridge a number of arms were concealed. The redcoats visited this house but failed to discover the hidden muskets. A party of soldiers approached the innoculatory hospital. Its inmates, three in number, rushed to the windows and throwing them open shouted frantically, "Don't come here. We are sick with small-pox!" The soldiers at once hastily retreated. But their disappearance failed to reassure the panic stricken invalids. Terri-

\*Seeing the red-coats at this ferry a man on the opposite shore of Barrington shouted wildly for "quarter," greatly to the amusement of the soldiers.



fied lest a second detachment of redcoats less afraid of disease should appear, they rushed from the house down the road crying, "The Regulars have come! The Regulars have come!" At the stone bridge they turned up the School House Road, thence into the Birch Swamp Road, still uttering their warning cry. One of the good housewives of the neighborhood who was engaged in preparing breakfast heard the shouts. She looked from the window, and recognizing the men grasped the situation. Seizing the coffee-pot in one hand and a large bowl in the other, she opened the kitchen door and commanding the men to halt inquired where they were going. "To Swansea to give the alarm," they replied. "Well," she answered, "you don't go a step farther until you have drank some coffee," and despite the expostulations of her family she compelled the not unwilling travellers to each swallow a bowlful of the smoking beverage. She then resumed her domestic labors, while the refreshed pilgrims continued on to Swansea where their appearance created as much consternation as the Regulars themselves would have occasioned. Finding no place of refuge offered them, the weary sick men were forced to return to Warren and re-enter the hospital. Strangely, their long journey was productive of no ill results either to them or any of the various persons with whom they came in contact during it.

While the capture of the miller was being effected at the bridge, a scene of quite an opposite nature transpired in another part of Kickemuit. A trio of soldiers crossed some fields and approached the farm of Mr. Ephraim Cole. The sun was now high in the heavens, and Mr. Cole was hoeing in his corn-field. Himself unperceived, he espied the advancing redcoats. Not seeing any way of escape he quietly dropped behind a stone wall, hoe in hand. The soldiers reached the wall and were about to clamber over it when, suddenly, Mr. Cole sprang erect and brandishing the hoe in their faces exclaimed in a voice of thunder, "Come on, my brave boys, and we'll have every lobster of 'em!" The astonished "lobsters," thinking a large party of Americans concealed behind the walls, turned in confusion and ran in different directions, Mr. Cole pursuing them shouting, "March to the east'ard! Head 'em off to the west'ard!" Not daring to glance behind them the soldiers continued their flight. Two of them escaped, but Mr. Cole overtook the third and, as he afterwards drily remarked, "surrounded him and took him prisoner."

Having completed the main object of the expedition, the destruction of the boats, Col. Campbell marched his men back to the compact part of the town where terror and confusion reigned supreme. The citizens endeavored to protect their property,

but the overwhelming number of the enemy rendered their efforts futile. Many households were without male protectors as a large portion of the able-bodied men of the town were engaged elsewhere in military service. The Baptist meeting-house and parsonage and other buildings were burned to the ground, the powder magazine was blown up, and the privateer "General Stark," which stood ready for launching in one of the shipyards, was partially destroyed. Cattle and poultry were killed, stores and houses pillaged, and women and children terrified. The appearance of the marauders is described by Fessenden in his historical sketch of Warren. The British were attired in red coats, cocked hats, and small clothes, with shoe and knee buckles and a profusion of gold lace. The Hessians wore huge fur caps and great boots, and the latter they utilized as receptacles for booty of every description. These German mercenaries rendered themselves particularly obnoxious to the townspeople. A party of them who had been wounded in a skirmish with some citizens visited the Burr Tavern on Main street. Mrs. Burr, the landlady, kindly dressed their wounds and they displayed their gratitude to her by destroying her dishes and furniture. At another house they fired several shots at the women and children whom they found assembled there. Five burly giants effected an entrance at the residence of



Jesse Baker on what is now Water street by dashing in the windows. Mrs. Baker was alone in the house at the time. They compelled her to mount a chair and from the upper shelves of the china closet to pass to them such articles as they desired. Naturally as they addressed her in German she did not understand their orders very readily, but she tremblingly handed to them dish after dish each of which they dashed to the ground with oaths and laughter. In the midst of their sport an English officer suddenly made his appearance. At a glance he comprehended the situation and raising a silver handled riding-whip, which Mrs. Baker recognized as the property of Col. Nathan Miller, he struck the ring-leader of the party across the cheek cutting the flesh open. He then sternly ordered him and his companions to leave the house, and after they had disappeared courteously assisted the half fainting woman to alight from the chair, assuring her that he would protect her from further molestation—a promise he faithfully performed. No other instance of forbearance on the part of the assailants is recorded, the officers, generally, rather encouraging than restraining their men in the work of devastation. Some of the soldiers even went so far as to tear the brass rings from the fingers of the negro servants. The guard posted at Kelley's ferry intercepted a respectable Irishman who was endeavoring to es-

cape from the town. They turned him around on his horse, set his wig and hat awry, and putting the muzzle of a gun to his cheek compelled him to swear allegiance to King George which he did with a very ill grace. Mr. Peter Cole, a prominent citizen, eluded capture by a clever ruse. Seizing a large butcher's knife, he rushed from his house along Main street brandishing his blade and crying, "I am Peter Cole and I don't care for a d—d soul!" The British soldiers, supposing him deranged, permitted him to pass through their midst unmolested. Other of the the townspeople were less fortunate and a number of prisoners were secured, among them Sylvester Child and his son-in-law Rev. Charles Thompson, a chaplain in the Continental service who was then at home on a furlough. The family of Col. Nathan Miller escaped by boat to Barrington, carrying with them valuable state papers which Campbell had hoped to secure. One of the British soldiers fired a shot at the boat which whistled close to the head of the Colonel's young daughter. The Miller residence was ransacked, the soldiers expressing great regret that they had not captured the "fellow with the big boots" as they nicknamed Col. Miller.\* They quenched their disappointment in a barrel of cider which they discovered in the cellar, first, how-

\*Col. Miller weighed upwards of 300 pounds. His boots held a bushel of corn each.

ever, compelling a young slave girl whom they found hidden in the house to taste it as an assurance that it contained no poison.

As the morning sun rose high, Col. Campbell, fearing the Americans would rally from the neighboring towns prepared to retreat, and the straggling squads of soldiers were called together on Main street. One detachment passing the home of the Tory schoolmaster cheered loudly, whereupon Holland emerged from the door and joined them.\* Campbell placed his prisoners and their guards in the van. Behind them marched the Hessians, presenting an exceedingly grotesque appearance with articles of every description peeping and dangling from the wide tops of their huge boots. The English companies followed with Campbell himself at the rear of the procession. As the retreating column filed slowly along Main street, a party of ladies who were watching it from the windows of what is now the Fessenden Hotel espied, lagging far behind his comrades, a diminutive individual encumbered with a large drum, and very much the worse for the numerous drams of West India rum with which he had regaled himself. The ladies determined to make him their prisoner. One of them placing herself at the head of the party snatched a brass candlestick from

\*The house occupied by Holland is still standing on Church Street, just east of the Methodist Church.

a table near by, and, followed by her companions, ran into the street. Pointing the candlestick at her victim, she commanded him to halt. Pale with terror the little man staggered back exclaiming, "Don't fire, ladies! Don't fire! I surrender." The ladies surrounded him and triumphantly conducted him into the house where they locked him securely in a closet. He expressed great pleasure at being captured, saying that he was exhausted with the weight of his heavy drum.

Despite the precautions of the enemy messengers had early been despatched to Barrington, Providence, and other points to secure aid, and as Campbell began the march towards Bristol a portion of Capt. Vial Allen's company which had been stationed at Rumstick Point entered Warren. They were, however, too few in number to render assistance. Shortly afterward Gen. William Barton, with a party of mounted troops in advance of a large body of infantry under Gen. Sullivan, appeared and hastened in pursuit of the foe, collecting a number of volunteers along the route. Mrs. Williams, in her biography of Barton, states that as the doughty General galloped along he hailed Col. Campbell, daring him to single combat. "Come back you d—d coward," he shouted in thunder tones. "I am the man who took Prescott, and by —— if you will just step out of your lurking place I'll hack you to pieces in less

time than it took to take him." Barton overtook the British near Bristol Ferry where he received a severe wound in the leg from a musket ball. This accident and the insufficiency of his force induced him to abandon the pursuit. After repeating in Bristol the scenes enacted in Warren, the enemy re-embarked in their ship and set sail for Newport, barely in time to escape attack from Sullivan who arrived at Bristol shortly afterwards.

The disastrous effect of this raid upon Warren cannot be adequately portrayed. Yet with praiseworthy courage and energy the citizens immediately resumed their labors in the cause of liberty. On June 1st it was voted to levy a tax of £900 for the town's use. The fortifications at Burr's Hills were strengthened and a watch stationed there during the day as well as at night, the town being further protected by a guard boat placed at the entrance to the river by order of Congress. The privateer "General Stark" was repaired and towards the last of June started on her first cruise. Gen. Sullivan had begun negotiations for release of the prisoners captured at Warren and Bristol. Many of these were men too advanced in years to bear arms, who were treated with unnecessary harshness by their captors. Pigot signified his willingness to exchange them on the usual terms, but stated that if the exchange was not effected at once the prisoners would be removed



to New York. After a sharp correspondence the exchange of several was arranged, and three or four were released on parole. Among the citizens of Warren who were transferred to the Jersey prison ship were Rev. Charles Thompson, Caleb Turner, and James Maxwell. The privations endured by those confined upon this foul and overcrowded vessel were of the most severe nature. Rev. Mr. Thompson after being detained in captivity for several weeks was given his freedom, but was never able to discover to whom he owed his release.

The arrival of the French fleet in American waters early in July caused intense joy throughout the country. Immediately, however, the enemy began to send reinforcements from New York to Rhode Island. On July 15th, 300 troops were landed at Newport. The Council of War fearing an attack on Providence called out half the military force of the state to serve for twenty days, ordering the remaining half to hold themselves in readiness for action at a moment's notice. On the 29th D'Estaing's fleet appeared in the bay and blockaded Newport. On August 9th Sullivan, with about 10,000 troops, crossed from Tiverton to Portsmouth. On the 21st D'Estaing withdrew his ships, but Sullivan continued his preparations while awaiting the return of the fleet. On the 29th the Battle of Rhode Island, which Lafayette pronounced "the best fought

action of the war," took place. To this "Rhode Island Expedition," as it was termed, Warren contributed its full quota of men. One company in Col. Miller's regiment was commanded by Captain Robert Carr, a native of the town and a most zealous patriot. Warren Mason, a negro belonging to John Mason of Warren, was one of the slaves who obtained freedom by enlisting in the "black regiment," which under the leadership of Col. Christopher Greene distinguished itself by three times repelling the furious attacks of the Hessian columns with the most desperate courage and determination.

On August 31st the care of the troops on the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay was entrusted by Gen. Sullivan to the Marquis de Lafayette, who established his headquarters at Bristol. Toward the latter part of September he removed them to Warren where a portion of Varnum's brigade was stationed. Col. Israel Angell's regiment encamped in the fields on the eastern slope of Windmill Hill in the northerly part of the town near the Kickemuit river. A little more than half a century ago a post driven into the ground indicated the spot where Lafayette's marquee stood, just southeast of the ledge of rocks on the summit of the hill. On the farm of Mr. Henry Clark on the east side of Belcher's Cove are still to be seen the remains of earth works which it is said were thrown up under the supervision of the

marquis. The gallant French officer was very popular with the townspeople, his frank and engaging manner winning all hearts. Tradition states that he was extremely partial to the old-fashioned "Rhode Island johnny-cakes" baked on a board at the hostelry of Ebenezer Cole, famous throughout the colonies for its good cheer; and that he and an American officer once engaged in a "johnny-cake match," which he easily won, outstripping or rather out eating his competitor by two or three cakes of more than ordinary size. Lafayette's stay in Warren was of short duration, the middle of October finding him in Philadelphia.

Though the enemy maintained great watchfulness, the privateers belonging to the seaboard towns managed to elude all vigilance and to constantly cross and recross the bay. In September the "General Stark" returned to Rhode Island, having captured two prizes, one a brig laden with cotton-wool and red-wood, the other a ship from Halifax bound for Jamaica and carrying a cargo of fish and spars. About the same time the schooner "Weasel," Mauran, master, another privateer sent out from Warren, succeeded in taking a brig of 140 tons which sailed from New York with wood and provisions for the king's troops at Newport.

The winter of 1778-9 was a severe one. The camp at Windmill Hill was abandoned and the troops



were quartered in stores on the wharves and in private dwellings. On Christmas Eve the Warren river was completely frozen over, and Col. Angell excused his men from the usual drill. A violent storm raged on the 26th, the barracks being filled with snow and huge drifts blocking the roads. On New Year's Day, Warren received the melancholy tidings of the wreck of the "General Stark." Nineteen members of the ill-fated vessel perished by freezing. The extremely cold weather and the scarcity and high price of provisions caused great suffering among the poor. The inhabitants of the town numbered at this period 789, together with fourteen refugees from the county of Newport, some of whom were entirely dependent upon charity for support. The town treasury was nearly depleted, and in March it became necessary to hire the sum of \$1,500 for the purchase of grain from Connecticut for the town's use.

On March 11th, Daniel Cole, Joseph Smith, and William Barton were appointed a committee to ascertain what persons had performed more than their proportion of military duty in the two expeditions against Rhode Island, and to allow such persons whatever sums of money they might deem were justly due them. In April the militia of the several counties were, by order of the Assembly, formed into brigades, Col. Nathan Miller being elected brigadier

of the counties of Newport and Bristol. As the enemy greatly outnumbered the American forces, and continued to make incursions upon the seaboard towns, it was deemed prudent to increase the guard at Warren, and August 4th Shubael Kinnicutt and Nathan Bardin were empowered to enlist twenty-six men to serve for twenty days. £300 was appropriated to pay the guard, and Moses Turner was directed to "draught a petition to Gen. Gates for Rations for Sd. Guard." This guard was stationed at points along the shore where it was feared the British might attempt to make a landing. Fortunately Warren was destined to escape a repetition of the misfortunes which had befallen her the previous year. The South having become the seat of war it became necessary for Sir Henry Clinton to centralize his forces there, and on October 25th, to the unbounded joy of the suffering inhabitants of Rhode Island, the enemy evacuated Newport.

As winter approached the weather became extremely cold. Again was Warren river frozen completely over, and communication with Barrington was maintained by crossing the ice on foot or in ox teams. Fire-wood was very scarce, commanding twenty dollars per cord, and so insufficient was the supply of food that a famine seemed imminent. But it was not, alone, temporal privations that the people of Warren were forced to endure. There were spiritual hard-

ships also. The destruction of their meeting-house had compelled the Society of Baptists to unite, temporarily, with the neighboring church of Swansea. The severity of the weather and condition of the country roads, however, prevented the regular attendance of church. But all trials of what nature soever were borne cheerfully, indeed, in many instances, heroic fortitude was displayed.

Early in the summer of 1780 active military operations were begun in anticipation of the arrival of the French fleet in Rhode Island. Washington asked for additional troops to co-operate with the allies, and a militia force was called out to serve for three months. Recruiting officers were appointed for each town, those chosen for Warren being Nathan Miller, Sylvester Child, Daniel Cole, Robert Carr, and William Barton. On July 2d, the town voted that Nathan Bardin and Edward Mason "be added to the Committe for Enlisting Soldiers," and on the same day it was ordered that "a Propper Person be appointed at the Expense of the Town to Carry Such Winter Clothing as the friends and Connections of Such Soldiers as May enter into the Continental Service at the Present Campaign may provide for them." De Corny, the French Commissary General, having requested the General Assembly to repair the ferries between Providence and Newport, a committee consisting of Hon. Wm.

Bradford, Gen. Miller and Col. Joseph Nightingale were appointed by the Assembly to confer with him regarding "the accommodation of the expected armament," and Ephraim Bowen, the Deputy Quartermaster General, was empowered to draw £10,000 from the state treasury for the purpose of making the necessary repairs at Providence, Warren, and Bristol. On July 10th, De Terney, with a fleet of twelve ships of war and thirty-two transports and six thousand troops under Count Rochambeau, arrived at Newport where, on the following day, the troops were landed. In August a dinner at the expense of the state was given in honor of the allies. Gen. Miller was a member of the entertainment committee. He was popular with the French officers owing to the fact that a strain of Huguenot blood ran through his veins. A warm friendship sprang up between him and Count Rochambeau with whom he exchanged rapiers. The Rochambeau weapon is now owned by a descendant of General Miller.

The work of raising the British vessels sunk in the harbor of Newport had begun in June. Cromwell Child purchased a portion of this wreckage which was transported on scows to Warren. Tradition states that Ebenezer Cole built a barn of some of the timbers, which was for many years a landmark in the town, and which the owner was very fond of pointing out to the guests who frequented his hostelry.

On August 5th, the town of Warren appointed Ezra Ormsbee to furnish the militia with camp furniture. He was directed to purchase "21 Mess Pots, 21 Pails, 21 Mess Boles, 5 Narrow Axes, 3 Baggage Carts and give his Receipt for the articles in Behalf of the Town." At the same time it was voted to raise \$10,000 as a town tax.

In October a detachment of French troops was quartered in Warren and remained there during the winter. These troops occupied during a portion of their stay the old camping place at Windmill Hill. They are said to have been admirably disciplined, and were very friendly with the neighboring farmers, whose wives supplied them with brown bread for which they displayed as great partiality as Lafayette evinced for Landlord Cole's Rhode Island johnny-cakes.

In February, 1781, the Assembly, in expectation of the withdrawal of the French troops, called out twelve hundred militia to serve for one month under Brigadier General Miller. On March 6th, Gen. Washington arrived at Newport for the purpose of arranging with Rochambeau for the coming campaign. On the 10th the French fleet sailed and all but three hundred of the Rhode Island militia were dismissed. On the 13th Washington proceeded to Providence, passing through Bristol and Warren en route. In Warren he was entertained at the expense



of the state at the famous hostelry of Shubael Burr, which, like its rival Cole's Tavern, was noted throughout New England. Burr's Tavern was located at the corner of Main and King (afterwards Washington) streets. The room assigned to Washington was a rather small apartment, but considered at the time a very elegant guest chamber. Burr's tavern, after standing for more than a century, was a few years since torn down.

On March 22d, the town voted to purchase 3-4 cwt. of sugar, 1-4 cwt. of coffee, and a bushel of rye meal for the "Soldiers Doing Duty on Rhode Island that Went from the Town;" John Child was directed to procure these articles. The depreciation of continental currency caused the town to vote in June "that the Town Treasurer Receive no more old Continental Money into the Treasury for Taxes Due from the Collector." The privateer sloop "George" of Warren, Thomas Champlin, master, was this month captured off Sandy Hook by Arbuthnot's fleet. In July Gen. Miller, wearied with his unceasing labors, tendered his resignation to the Assembly, but at the earnest request of that body withdrew it. In August he was appointed to proceed to New York in "the flag-of-truce Nancy," for the purpose of arranging for the exchange of citizens of Rhode Island held prisoners by the enemy. His mission proved successful and, at a later date, the

released prisoners returned in a "flag" to Rhode Island.

In August the schooner "Hunter" of Warren sailed for Virginia with provisions and hospital stores for the American troops. In a letter addressed to his wife from "Off Jamestown in James River," and dated September 19, 1781, the captain, William Turner Miller, predicted the fall of Cornwallis which occurred on the 17th of the following month. The tidings of the victory at Yorktown caused the most intense joy throughout Rhode Island. By the display of flags, the ringing of bells, and the firing of cannon the people demonstrated their satisfaction. Several prisoners of war \* were transported from Yorktown to Rhode Island by the sloop "Abigail" of Warren, John Haile master. Thirteen of these prisoners were privates, the remainder were officers. Two negro servants accompanied the latter.

\*Among papers preserved by the descendants of Capt. Haile is a partial list of these prisoners as follows:

Capt. Steward,	}	N. C. Loyalists.
Lt. James Campbell,		
Lt. Donald Campbell,		
Ens'n Dugald Campbell,		
Ens'n Donald Campbell,	}	
Ens'n O'Boyle,		
Ens'n Eald,	}	De Soucy 1st. Bat.,
Capt. Althouse,		
Ens'n Althouse,	}	N. Y. V.,
Lieut. Murphy, South C. Corpse,		
Lieut. Searjeant Kings, A Reg't.,		
Mr. Ker, Comis'y.		
Corn't White, B. Legion.		
Mr. Edwards, Comis'y."		

The Assembly, in December, directed the several towns to prepare estimates of the damage inflicted in each by the enemy during the war. Warren's loss by the incursion of British troops on May 25, 1778, as appraised by William Turner Miller, amounted to the sum of £12,101; 17s.; 3d.

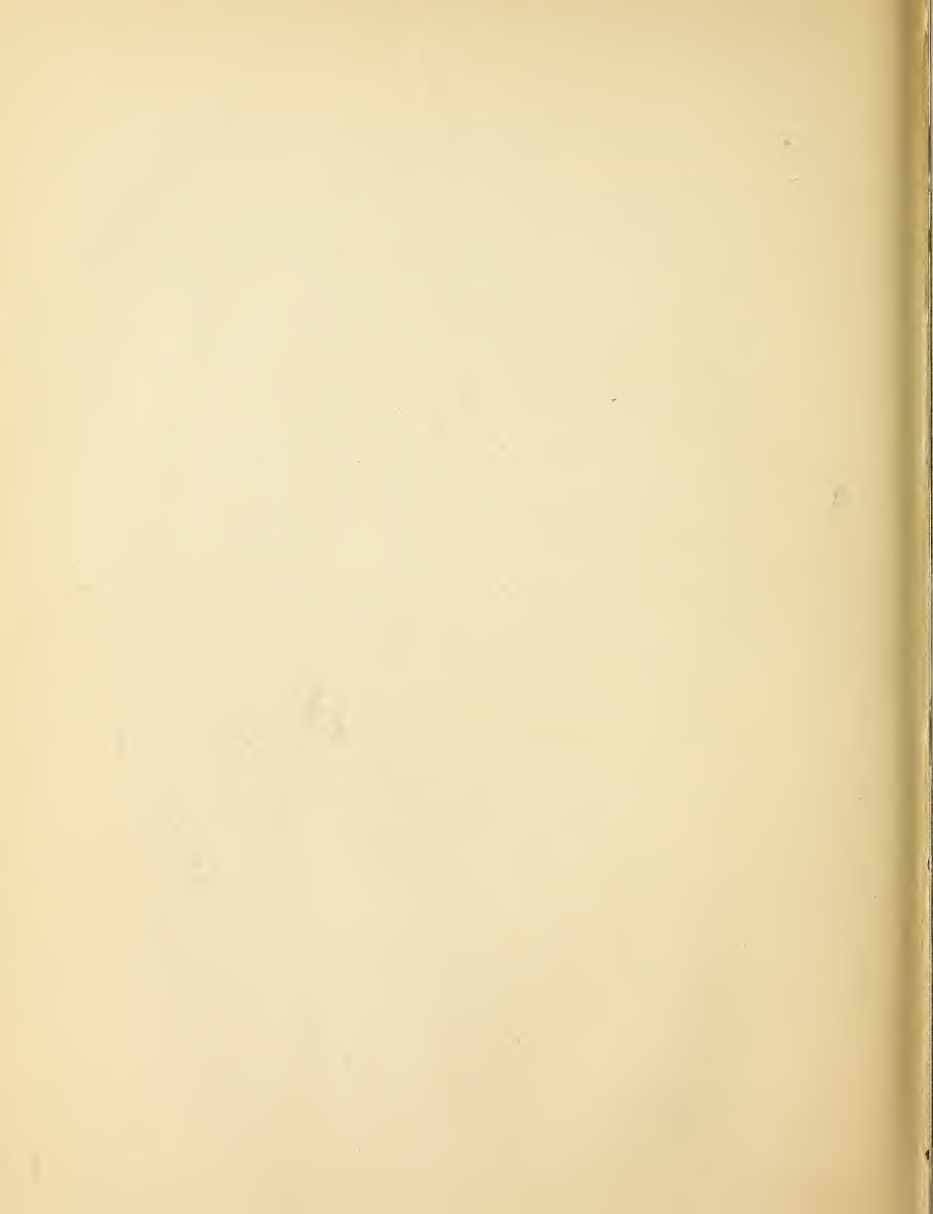
The closing year of the war was a comparatively eventless one as regarded Warren. In March, Capt. David Barton was appointed to enlist the town's proportion of men for the continental army. The same month John Child was authorized "to purchase fifty-six yards of tow-cloth and eight pairs of stockings according to the act of the General Assembly and to deliver these articles to their use at East Greenwich." In October Gen. Miller requested the Assembly to furnish him with a "flag" in which to proceed to New York for the purpose of obtaining the release of certain prisoners confined there. He was authorized to commission a vessel under Wm. Turner Miller for the purpose specified.

The condition of Warren at the end of the war was a most unhappy one. Business was almost entirely prostrated, and many families were impoverished. The town treasury was nearly depleted. The loss of shipping amounted to 1,090 tons. Household after household mourned the loss of dearly beloved members. Many a man who had gone forth to do service for his country in the full glory of vigorous



manhood had returned the mere shadow of his former self. Young women had grown prematurely old under the too heavy burdens of anxiety, privation, and grief. The farms were neglected, the streets overgrown with grass, the ship-yards were deserted, the docks empty. But with the same courage and determination that had distinguished them in the darkest hours of adversity, the people instantly set about the bettering of their condition. The building of vessels was resumed, the farms were tilled, shops were re-opened, a new church built, and in less than a decade after the signing of the treaty of peace at Paris, Warren was once more a busy and prosperous maritime town.

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## APPENDIX.

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*(From original, Fessenden Mss.)*

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Roll of Capt. Ezra Ormsbee's Company of Militia  
in the Town of Warren, 1776.

Sargant, Amos Haile,  
    " Thomas Easterbrooks,  
    " Curtis Cole,  
    " Gardner Mason,  
Corporal, William Child,  
    " Jacob Sanders,  
    " Oliver Salisbury, Jr.,  
    " Ichabod Cole,  
Drummer, ———  
Fifer, ———  
James Child,  
\*Cromwell Child,  
Samuel Miller,  
\*William Salisbury,  
\*Daniel Richards,  
\*Joseph Kelley,

Edward Eddy,  
 \*Jonathan Salisbury,  
 Jeremiah Child,  
 \*James Salisbury,  
 Isaac Gorham,  
 Jesse Baker,  
 Georg Cogashell,  
 William Lewis,  
 Joseph Smith,  
 Peleg Easterbrooks,  
 Caleb Eddy,  
 Haile Child,  
 John Harding,  
 Joseph Kelley,  
 Daniel Kelley,  
 Jonathan Bliss,  
 Barnaby Luther,  
 Nathan Bowen,  
 William Haile,  
 Caleb Turner,  
 Jeremiah Comstock,  
 John Bowen, 2nd.,  
 Stephen Bowen, Jr.,  
 William Hoar,  
 Samuel Wheaton, 2nd.,  
 Samuel Mason,  
 Haile Barton,  
 David Barton,

Thomas Barden,  
 Richard Barton,  
 \*Samuel Hicks,  
 Hezekiah Buterworth,  
 Gideon Luther,  
 Elisha Finney,  
 Richard Haile, Jr.,  
 Isaiah Cole,  
 \*Frederick Luther,  
 James Mason,  
 Nathan Haile,  
 John O'Kelley,  
 Edward Mason,  
 Joseph Mason,  
 Joshua Whiting,  
 Whitfield Whiting,  
 Mial Luther,  
 Job Salisbury,  
 Perez Wheaton,  
 William Hill,  
 Amariah Cole,  
 William Wheaton,  
 John Bowen,  
 Edward Kinnicutt,  
 Sam'l D. Wolf,  
 Caleb Miller,  
 Job Miller,  
 Rufus Chase,

Level Maxwell,	John Haile,
**Ebenezer Bosworth,	Benjamin Easterbrooks,
James Bowen,	2nd..
Ellicksander Mason,	Warring Easterbrooks,
Joseph McMilon,	William Miller,
William Luther,	James Maxwell,
William Arnold, Jr.,	Edward Easterbrooks,
Stephen Hicks,	Jeremiah Joles,
**Samson Sims,	Barnard Salisbury,
Caleb Salisbury,	William Salisbury,
Joseph Barton, Jr.,	John Cowin,
Daniel Easterbrooks,	John Sisson, Jr.,
James Cole,	John Cole,
Jonathan Carr,	Jonathan Towgood,
Barnard Haile,	Daniel Cole, Jr.,
Edward Cole,	Barnard Hale, Jun'r,
Gideon Cole,	Marmaduke Mason,
Samuel Hicks, 2nd.,	Martin Easterbrooks.

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Roll of Captain Caleb Carr's Company, Col. Wm. Richmond's Regiment, Oct. 10, 1776.

Caleb Carr, Captain,	Thomas Pearse,
Samuel Stevens, lieuten-	Consider Tripp,
ant,	Nathaniel Humphrey,
Samuel Hicks, Ensign,	Samuel Bosworth,

\*In the original muster-roll a line is drawn through these names.

\*\*Ebenezer Bosworth and Samson Sims were members of the crew of the privateer "Warren," which was captured by the enemy Dec. 29, 1777. They were committed to Mill Prison, Plymouth, Eng., June, 1778.



George Ox,	Joseph Shana,
Joseph Gladding,	John Pearse,
Gideon Hathaway,	Hail Child,
John Easterbrooks,	James Bushee,
Daniel Wardwell,	Thomas Peck,
Constant Church,	Gideon Read,
Walter Durfee,	Joseph Turner,
David Luther,	Wm. Read,
Caleb Miller,	Wilson Low,
Essex Jones,	John E. Cedrup,
John Norris,	Gideon Cole,
Amos Luther,	Nathaniel Humphrey, 2d.
Philip Carr,	Nathaniel West,
David Maxfield,	John Sunday,
Wheaton Turner,	Samuel Wheaton,
James Pike,	Hicks West,
Daniel Maxfield,	Levi Cole,
Samuel Martin,	Asa West,
Nathaniel Wilson,	Joseph Hathaway,
Elisha Hathaway,	John More.

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*(From original, Carr Mss.)*

A True List of all the Soldiers in the Town of Warren both in the Alarm and Militia who were Drafted the 28th day of Sep'tm., A. D. 1777. To Serve one Month from the First day of October Ensuing the date above in my Company under the command of the Hon'l. Major General Spencer, viz.:

Men's Names Drafted.	Their Substitutes.	Where Subs. Belonged.
Martin Luther Sylvester Child Benjamin Cole John Mason Benjamin Diman Shuael Burr Barnard Miller Daniel Cole James Miller James Child, 2d John Child, 2d Shubael Kinnicutt Marmaduke Mason William Barton Benjamin Barton Edward Gardner	Jeremiah Jolles Joshua Turner William Meeker John Woodmansee Ebenezer Blanding Samuel Viall Job Miller Esquire Pearse — — — James Brown Daniel Bullock Joseph Mason Christopher Bowen Grindall Chase Joseph Thayer	Bristol Palmer's River Rehoboth Swanzy Palmer's River Barrington Warren Rehoboth — — — Barrington Rehoboth Warren Palmer's River Swansea Mendon

## Warren Militia who were added to my Company:

Men's Names Drafted.	Their Substitutes.	Where Subs. belonged.
Ichabod Cole Edward Mason James Child Gardner Mason William Lewis Benj. Cole, 2d Edward Eddy Jesse Baker James Maxwell Nathan Haile James Short Nath'l B. Whitting John Child, 2d Richard Barton Richard Haile, Jr. Elisha Finney Thomas Burden Bennajah Cole* Johnathan Sisson† Cromwell Child, 2d Samuel Miller Samuel Burr Hezekiah Butterworth	— — — — — — James Bowen Rufus Chase Joseph Allen — — — Peter McMillion Elisha Mason Nathaniel Cole George Briggs — — — Peter Richards Joseph McMillion Ephriam Cole — — — Henry Peck Thomas Stevens — — — James Chase — — — John Bowen Anthony Thracher	— — — — — — Warren Swansea Barrington — — — Warren Palmer's River Swansea Newton — — — Newport Warren Swanzy — — — Rehoboth Newport — — — Swanzy — — — Warren Rehoboth

\*Entered the Eleventh of the Month.

† Sick Child, Abner Baker, 15 day.

N. B.—All those with a Long Stroke did their own Tower of Duty.  
Witness Dan'l Bradford, Capt. Alarm.

*(From original, Carr Mss.)*

A Muster Roll of Capt. Robert Carr's Company of Col. Nathan Miller's Reg't. of Militia now in Service of the United States Engaged for the Term of Twenty Days after our arrival at Place of Rendezuse. Taken to August 1, 1778.

Robert Carr, Captain,	
Joshua Bicknel, 1st Lieu-Joseph Vial,	
tenant,	Thomas Swan,
Benjamin Bosworth, 2d,	Joseph Moran, (Mau-
No. of Sargants.	ran?)
Nathan Bardeen,	Hezekiah Hicks,
Thomas Pearse,	Negro Premous,
Luther Cole,	John Childes,
Esek Remington,	Samuel Bosworth,
No. of Corprols.	William Greene,
John Linsey,	Stephen Paine,
No. of Privates.	Jehobad Carey,
Ephraim Southard,	Sheapard Pearce,
Asel Crossman,	Joseph Emmerson,
Ezra Briggs,	Sam'l Carpenter,
Sam'l Pearce,	Elijah Shaw,
Wm. Arnold,	Sam'l Newman,
Joseph Munro,	Nath'l Smith,
Ambros Cole,	Jeames Hervey,
Joseph Oldridge,	Jacob Sanders,
Nath'l Philips,	John Ingraham,

Sam'l Bowen,	Aaron Knap,
Joab Reede,	Thomas Tempten,
Amos Haile,	Joseph Williams,
Jeames Goff,	Sam'l Allen,
Wm. Munro, 3rd.,	Thomas Sumner,
Thomas Gray,	Joshua Ingreham,
Bristol Miller,	Paul Mumford.

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(Warren men who were members of the Alarm Company of Bristol County in 1779 were: John Mason, Edward Gardner, Benjamin Barton, Daniel Cole, Smith Bowen, Ebenezer Luther, James Miller, Samuel Pearse, William Arnold, Ezra Ormsbee, John Kinnicutt, Barnard Miller, Jacob Sanders, Crumel Child, Caleb Child, Sylvester Child, Martin Luther, Samuel Luther, Moses Turner, Shubael Burr, John Child, 2d., Caleb Carr, Samuel Wise, 2nd., James Child, 2nd., Benjamin Cranston, Marmaduke Mason, William Barton, John Wheaton, Joseph Eddy, Wm. Bliss.)

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*(From original, Carr Mss.)*

Captain Robert Carr's Company of the Senior Class in the County of Bristol in Gen. Miller's Brigade, 1780.

Men's Names.	Benjamin Bosworth, 3d.,
Robert Carr, Capt.,	Ensign,
Thomas Allen, Lieut.,	Luther Cole, Sergt.,

Shubal Kinnicutt, Sergt.,	Moses Turner,
Thomas Pearse, Sergt.,	John Child,
Joseph Vial, ———	John Haile,
Privitts.	Parley How,
Jonathan Russell,	Benjamin Cranston,
Nathaniel Waldron,	Rufus Barton,
Anthony Vandoran,	William Barton,
Jeremiah Ingraham.	Nathaniel Heath,
Hezekiah Monrow,	Henry Bowen,
Thomas Swan,	Samuel Allen,
Samuel Barker,	Josiah Vial,
Jeremiah Finney,	Samuel Bosworth,
Amos Haile,	Matthew Watson, Jr.,
John Howland, Jr.,	James Brown,
Samuel Wardwell,	Matthew Allin,
William Wardwell,	Samuel Kint,
Stephen Smith,	Moses Tyler,
Ephraim Carey,	Elkanah Humphrey,
William Lawless,	Joseph Smith,
Arehabel Monrow,	Consider Tripp,
James Miller,	Solamon Townsend,
Jacob Sanders,	Nathan Bardeen,
Caleb Child,	Samuel Hix,
Samuel Luther,	Luther Martin.

Fifteen of this Company belongs to Warren, Cole's Company, 16 of this Company belongs to Bristol Troop's Company, 15 of this Company belongs to Barrington Viol Allen's Company. Total 46.



(*From original, Fessenden Mss.*)

A List of Capt. Curtis Cole's Company in Cur'nl  
Nathan Miller's Regiment. 1781.

Thomas Easterbrooks,	Samuel Fish,	
Leftenant,	Jesse Baker,	
Ichabod Cole, Ensign,	Simeon Tugud,	(Too-
Edwar Mason, Sarjant,	good,)	
David Barton,	Samuel Bur,	
Landon Col,	John Bowen, 2d.,	
Barney Luther,	Nathan Haile,	
Jonathan Easterbrooks,	Josif Mason,	
William Luis,	Josif McMilyon,	
Benjamin Cole, 2d.,	William Bowen,	
Edward Cole,	John O. Killey,	
Crumil Child, 2d.,	Joabe Millar,	
Caleb Child, Jr.,	Barnot Haile,	
John Child, 2d.,	Ellick Sandas	Easter-
Nathel B. Whitin,	brooks,	
William O. Bron,,	Richard Haill, Jr.,	
	(O'Brien,) Caleb Solberry,	(Salis-
Peter Reynolds,	bury,)	
Jeremiah Comstock,	William Luther,	
Josier Bowen,	Jeames Graves,	
Seth Snell,	Jeames Goff,	
Jeames Cole,	John Haill,	
Caleb Turner,	John Cole,	
Jonathan Blis,	Jabez Luther, Jr.,	

John D. Wolf,	Martin Easterbrooks,
Hezekiah Buterwork,	Daniel Easterbrooks,
Seth Cole,	Abner Butter,
Elisher Finey,	Charles Collins,
Jeames Shoart,	Gideon Luther,
Jeames Mason,	Beniah Cole,
John T. Child,	John Killey,
Josif Tugud,	Samuel Bowen,
Isack Cole,	Jeames Maxwel,
Garner Mason,	Abrem Butter,
George Sisson, Jr.,	Holder Mason,
John Sisson Jr.,	Josif Eddy,
Thomas Buardin,	John Brown,
Samuel Mason,	Josif Barton,
Nathan Bowen,	Jonathan Carr,
Josif Killey,	Filip Carr,
Daniel Killey,	Caleb Miller,
Jonathan Bowen, Jr.,	Samuel Miller,
Benjamin Barton, Jr.,	Sylvester Haile,
John Thurber,	John Bowen,
William Hoar,	Caleb Hill,
John Hail,	Edward Eddy,
Jonathan Haile,	Caleb Cranston,
Lavil Maxwell,	Jerrimiah Child,
Thomas Parse,	Jeames Child,
Ebenezer Cole, Jr.,	Barnot Solberry,
Thomas Cole,	Joarge Neals,
John Whetin, (Wheaton,)	**Nielis Camil,
Abner Luther,	Benjamin Bowen.

\*Nicholas Cambell was a member of the "Boston Tea Party."

“VALUATION LIST” OF WARREN, R. I. 1778.

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168 Polls.

14 slaves from 10 to 50 years of age.

57 Horses.

345 Horn Cattle including 40 oxen.

340 Sheep and Goats.

7 chaises.

5 Wharfs.

147 Ounces Plate.

149 Hogs.

2 Grist mills, one each wind and water.

1 Distil House.

1 Tan yard.

3 Ship yards.

2700 acres of land in the township.

(176 acres wood and waste.)

4600 bushels of grain.

127 Barrels cider made.

Amount total of debts owed \$367.

7 Acres orcharding.

314 Tons English hay (cut.)

Taxable value of real estate and personal \$126,000.

Total value cash and trading stock \$15,000 and  
\$14,800, all other personal.

Real estate \$96,200.

Personal \$29,800.

\$126,000 total as above.

2 slaves owned by Sylvester Child.

2 " " John Child.

2 " " John Mason.

2 " " Martin Luther.

2 " " Nathan Miller.

1 " " Cromwell Child.

1 " " William Lewis.

1 " " Robert Carr.

1 " " Nathan Whiting.

1 " " John Haile.

1 Chaise owned by John Child.

1 " " James Miller.

1 " " Wm. Lewis.

1 " " Martin Luther.

1 " " Shubael Burr.

1 " " George Coggeshall.

1 " " Nathan Miller.

1 Wharf owned by Sylvester Child.

1 " " Martin Luther.

1 " " Cromwell & Caleb Child.

1 " " Nathan Miller.

1 " " Charles Collins.

207 Dwelling Houses and other buildings.

789 Inhabitants.

## SOUVENIRS OF THE REVOLUTION.

There are in the possession of the Warren Artillery Company two field-pieces of peculiar historic interest. These guns are brass six-pounders, one having engraved upon it the name "Pallas," the other "Tantae," while both bear the inscription "Strasbourg, 1762." They were captured from the British at the surrender of Burgoyne, Oct. 17, 1777, and were either given or transferred to the State of Rhode Island. They remained in the custody of the United Train of Artillery, Providence, from 1781 until the "Dorr War," when they were presented to the Warren Artillery in recognition of the services of that company at Federal Hill, May 18, 1842.

## SHIPPING LOST DURING THE REVOLUTION.

Beside the privateers "General Stark," and "George," the following vessels belonging to Warren were lost during the Revolution. Schooner "Roby," Kingsley, 100 tons, brig — Mason, 120 tons, sloop "United States," Coddington, 45 tons, schooner "Weasel" (privateer) Pain, 15 tons, brig —, Mauran, 120 tons, schooner "Moses," Miller, 60 tons, sloop "Polly," Whiting, 45 tons, brig "General Wayne," Pearce, 120 tons, sloop "Abigail," Miller, 45 tons, schooner "Swordfish,"



Collins, 120 tons, sloop "Rebecca," Champlin, 60 tons, and schooner "Hunter," Crawford, 60 tons.

(*From original, Fesenden Mss.*)

An account of the Losses sustained by the Inhabitants of Warren by an Excursion of the Enemy from Rhode Island, May 25, 1778.

ACCOUNT OF PETER REYNOLD'S LOSS  
SUSTAINED BY THE BRITISH TROOPS  
25TH OF MAY, 1778.

1 Blacksmith's Vise—5 gowns....	£8	2	0
25 yds. Toe Cloth whitened—10 yds. Kersey .....	3	15	0
9 yds. Sagatha—1 pair Woman's Stays .....	2	11	0
1 pair Cloth Shoes—one Axe—Coffe mill .....	1	10	0
2 Silk Cloaks—1 Looking Glass...	3	3	0
4 Table Cloths—6 Towels.....	2	11	0
1 Doz. Earthen Plates 1 Large Stone Platter .....	1	1	0
Glasses, Cups, Saucers and Bowls...	0	12	0
1-2 Doz. Aprons—6 pairs Stockings.	3	12	0
Shirts, Shifts, &c.—3 pair Pillow Cases .....	3	0	0
2 Petticoats—2 pewter Plates and Porringer .....	2	0	0
	<hr/>		
	31	17	0

## EBENEZER BOSWORTH'S LOSS.

1 Suit New Broad Cloth Cloaths...	12	0	0
2 Shirts—1 Silver Spoon and 1-2 Doz. Tea Ditto .....	2	2	0
1 Pair Silver Buckles .....	0	18	0
	<hr/>		
	15	0	0

## JACOB SANDERS' LOSS.

2 Bed Blanketts—1 Red Broad Cloth Long Cloak ....	£5	8	0
1 Chince Gown—2 Lawn Aprons..	5	5	6
1 Lawn Handkerchiff—1 Kenting Ditto .....	0	15	0
1 Check'd Handkerchiff—1 Pr. Silk Stockings .....	1	7	0
1 Great Coat—1 Hollen Shirt ....	2	18	0
1 Gun—1 Teapot—1 pair Sheets..	3	8	0
Children's Gowns—1 Curtain 2 Caps	0	18	6
1 Towel—2 pillow cases.....	0	5	0
Damage done his house by Explosion of the Magazine.....	12	0	0
1 yard Gauze—1 Pair Buckles 2 Handkerchiffs .....	1	14	0
1 pair Silk Gloves 3 yds. Ribbon— 1 porringer .....	0	9	2
	<hr/>		
	34	8	2

## NATHANIEL B. WHITING'S LOSS.

50 Paper Dollars—1 Cutlass.....	£4	7	0
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## WILLIAM T. MILLER'S LOSS.

1 Gun 1 pair Leather Breeches....	£3	0	0
1 Dressed Calf Skin—1 pair Stays	0	18	0
1 Table Cloth—2 Jacketts.....	0	7	0
1 Sword—1 ax .....	2	2	0
Tea Cups and Saucers .....	0	3	0
	<hr/>		
	6	10	0

## RUFUS WHITTAKER'S LOSS

as Per Bill .....	£60	7	0
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## DANIEL COLE, ESQ.'S, LOSS.

2 Pair Shoes .....	£0	12	0
1 Grind stone .....	0	12	0
2 Pair Stockings .....	0	10	0
2 Pillows ....	0	4	0
6 Check'd Handkerchiffs .....	0	8	0
1 Pair good Deerskin Breeches....	1	16	0
7 Pair Stockings good .....	1	10	0
1 new Linning Sheet.....	0	10	0
1 Pair pillow cases .....	0	4	0
3 good Shifts ....	1	16	0
4 yds. New Linning Cloth.....	0	8	0
1 Stock and Buckle Silver.....	0	12	0
1 Lawn Handkerchiff .....	0	3	0
	<hr/>		
	9	05	0

## REBEKAH SHELDON'S LOSS

as Per Bill .....	9	15	6
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## THE BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

Valued at ....	630	6	4½
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## THE PARSONAGE HOUSE

Valued at .....	309	8	11½
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EBENEZER COLE, ESQ., LOSS BY THE  
ENEMY.

350 Paper Dollars .....	26	5	0
2 Hollen Shirts—1 Linning .....	2	2	0
5 Silk Handkerchiffs .....	1	10	0
2 Linning Ditto .....	0	4	0
2 pair Stockings .....	0	12	0
1 Sword—1 Cannister & Tea.....	1	1	0
	<hr/>		
	31	14	0

## BELONGING TO THE TOWN.

3 Muskets—3 Cartoush Boxes ....	4	10	0
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## EBENEZER COLE, JUN'R, LOSS

as per Bill .....	5	4	0
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LEAH HANDY'S LOSS .....	3	12	0
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ELISHA PHINNEY'S LOSS ...	85	6	0
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SAMUEL LUHTER'S LOSS....	14	11	0
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## DEACON BENJAMIN COLE'S LOSS

as per bill .....	52	10	0
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## MARTIN LUTHER'S LOSS.

27 yards Hollen .....	6	15	0
1 Frock .....	0	16	0
1 Shirt—2 Handkerchiffs .....	0	15	0
1 Silk Gown .....	3	12	0
1 Frock .....	0	9	0
Damage done the Desk .....	0	12	0
1 Broad Ax .....	0	15	0
<hr/>			
	13	14	0

## BENAJAH COLE'S LOSS.

1 Sheet New .....	0	10	0
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## JAMES CHILD, 2D'S., LOSS.

3 New Sheets .....	£1	10	0
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## WIDOW ABIGAIL HILL'S LOSS.

One Silver Table Spoon.....	0	12	0
1 Hollen Apron—1 Check'd Ditto..	0	12	0
1 pair Gold Sleeve Buttons.....	0	14	0
1 Hollen Handkerchiff.. .....	0	4	0
1 Check'd Handkerchiff .....	0	3	0
1 Black Pelong Handkerchiff....	0	6	0
1 Peticoat—1 porringer .....	0	6	6
1 Cannester & Tea .....	0	4	6
1 yard Black Ribbond .....	0	1	0
1 Pair Shears .....	0	2	0
<hr/>			
	8	5	0



## NATHANIEL HILL'S LOSS.

1 pair Cotton Stockings .....	0	6	0
6 Gallons Rum .....	1	16	0
1 Pair Taylor's Shears.....	0	6	0
	<hr/>		
	2	8	0

Loss sustained by NATHAN MILLER, May 25, 1778, when the Enemy made an Excursion from Newport to Burn the Boates and destroy the Magazine.

3-8 of a Privateer 125 Tuns set on fire the whole loss £900 the 3-8.....	£337	10	0
1 Hogshead W. I. Rum in the Store adjoining the Magizeen.....	240	0	0
1 Sword and Hanger .....	30	0	0
3 small Arms .....	10	16	0
4 Silver Tea Spoons .....	1	16	0
7 Shirts ....	25	0	0
6 Pairs Stockings .....	9	0	0
1 Pair Buck Skin Breeches .....	9	0	0
1 Paire Hollen Sheets .....	3	0	0
3 yards & 1-2 New Linning Hollen	4	4	0
1 pair Gold Sleeve Buttons belonging to Caleb ..	2	16	0
1 Gold Ring .....	1	12	0
1 Pair Paste Buckles .....	18	0	0

1 Black Handkerchiff—2 Silk and Cotton Ditto .....	3	4	0
3 Pair Pillow Cases .....	2	8	0
	<hr/>		
	701	6	0
Consolidated at 4 for one.....	175	6	0

## SAMUEL MILLER'S LOSS.

4 Hollen Shirts .....	3	10	0
4 Pairs Silk and Worsted Stockings	1	16	0
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	5	8	0

The Mill belonging to SMITH BOWEN and SAMUEL PEARSE at Kickemuit .....	£88	12	0
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## SMITH BOWEN'S LOSS OUT OF HIS HOUSE.

35 Skeins yarn .....	£1	3	4
1 Silver Watch .....	6	0	0
2 Axes .....	1	7	0
2 Saws—4 Chizzels .....	1	4	0
2 Guns—1 Sword .....	7	10	0
9 Sheets .....	3	7	6
7 Pillow Cases .....	0	14	0
3 fine Shirts .....	1	16	0
4 other Shirts .....	1	16	0
3 Shifts .....	1	16	0

2 Table Cloths .....	0	16	0
4 Towels—6 Handkerchiffs .....	1	16	0
5 Aprons—24 pair Stockings.....	7	15	0
3 Gowns ....	6	0	0
2 Petticoats—1 Jacket .....	2	5	0
1 Pair Buckles .....	0	15	0
1 pair Gloves—Children's Clothing	2	0	0
1 Looking Glass—2 Basons .....	0	16	0
2 plates—2 porringers .....	0	6	0
2 Quart Pots—1 punch Bowle ....	0	18	0
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	50	0	10

CROMWELL CHILD, CALEB CHILD & MOSES  
TURNER'S LOSS

as appraised by Samuel Pearse & Shu-			
bel Kinnicutt on the 24th of Dec.,			
1778 .....	£8450	18	6
Lawful Paper Money which Consoli-			
date 6 and 1-2 for one.....	1300	0	0

ALLIN COLE'S LOSS

as per Bill .....	18	4	0
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SYLVESTER CHILD'S LOSS

as per Bill .....	100	1	0
The Damage done the Other Half			
of the GEN. STARK, PRIVA-			
TEER, not Charged in any bill be-			
fore .....	112	10	0

## JAMES CHILD'S LOSS.

Two Beds—4 Blankets.. . . . .	£10	10	0
Four pair Sheets—Six pewter plates	3	7	0
4 Pewter Porringers—one Copper			
Tea Kittle . . . . .	1	9	6
4 Pillow Cases—Two pair Leather			
Breeches . . . . .	2	8	0
1 Coat—3 Jacketts . . . . .	4	16	0
Shirts 3 Silk Handkerchiffs . . . . .	2	5	0
2 Shifts—five Children's Shirts....	2	17	0
5 Children's Gowns—2 pair Shoes.	2	5	0
1 Frying Pan—one Warming Pan..	1	8	0
3 Pewter Platters—one Looking Glass	0	18	0
15 pounds Candles—Twenty pounds			
Beef . . . . .	0	17	0
30 lbs. Pork—three lbs. Sugar.....	0	17	3
2 lbs. Coffe—one Barrel Soap.....	1	0	5
1-2 Bushel Meal . . . . .	0	1	6
1 Silk Cloak—five yds. silk . . . . .	3	14	0
6 yards Hollon—thirty skeins yarn	2	16	0
4 yards Drab—6 yds. Toe Cloth..	1	18	0
1 Bonnet—Two Pewter Basons . . . .	0	16	0
1 Quart Pot—1 pint ditto.....	0	9	0
1 Milk Kittle—one Coffe Pot.....	0	11	0
1 Bowle—one Earthen Platter....	0	8	0
9 Earthen Plates—one Teapot.....	0	10	0
15 Pewter Spoons—3 Earthen Tea-			
pots . . . . .	0	9	3

1 Sett Tea Cups & Saucers.....	0	3	0
6 Bowls for Coffe.....	0	4	6
3 Case Bottles—18 Round ditto....	0	11	3
1 Case Knives and forks.....	0	3	0
Rasors—1 yarn Coverlid .....	1	7	0
2 Lawn Aprons—Baby's Cloathes..	1	18	0
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	50	19	8

## RICHARD HAILE'S LOSS

as pr. Bill .....	9	17	0
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## JAMES BUSHEE'S LOSS.

54 Squares Glass .....	1	17	6
Other Damage to the House.....	3	0	0
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	4	17	6

## JOHN HARDIN'S LOSS.

1 Pair Pillow Cases.....	0	4	0
1 Bed .....	3	15	0
1 Calico Gown .....	3	0	0
1 Pair Stays .....	1	4	0
1 Velvet Jacket .....	2	0	0
1 Teapot—half Barrel pork.....	3	8	0
	<hr/>		
	18	11	0

BARNARD SALISBURY'S LOSS 95 16 0

RUFUS BARTON'S LOSS ..... 9 9 6

CALEB CARR'S LOSS ..... 5 17 0

## REV'D CHARLES THOMPSON'S LOSS

Saddle and curb bridle just bought..	3	0	0
Two Bever Hatts one wore a little, the the other not wore.....	4	0	0
Two new Hollen Shirts and seven new Hollen stocks .....	3	10	0
pair of new lather Boots of the first rate .... ..	2	2	0
Three home made shirts half wore..	0	15	0
four pocket handkerchiefs .....	2	8	0
twelve pair stockens all wore some..	2	8	0
One flannel gown .....	0	15	0
two home made shirts wore some..	0	12	0
two Check Aprons .....	0	8	0
One lawn henkerchief .....	0	5	0
four lawn and cambric caps.....	0	9	0
two pairs stockens .....	0	6	0
pair of cloth shews .....	0	5	0
Childrens cloaths the whole I judge at the lowest computation could not be less than.....	3	0	0
Baby things to the amount of.....	1	10	1
2 yds. and 1-4 of linning .....	0	11	0
1 yd. of home made broad cloth....	0	6	0
2 yds. ticking .....	0	6	0
five pair of sheets half wore.....	5	0	0
two pair of pillow caises.....	0	9	0
two table cloaths one cersy the other Diaper .... ..	0	18	0



four cersy towels .....	0	8	0
two caises of knives and forks.....	0	8	0
One Dozen of Mettle Spoons.....	0	9	0
four pewter porringers .....	0	6	0
one Quart Bason .....	0	4	6
one pewter plait .....	0	1	6
one set of china .....	0	15	0
four small Delph boals .....	0	4	0
two pairs of common beaker glasses.	0	3	0
warming pan ....	0	10	5
large frying pan .....	0	4	0
one pair brass candlesticks .....	0	9	0
one large Iron Dish Kittle.....	0	12	0
Iron tea kittle .....	0	6	0
two Cedar washing tubs.....	0	15	0
Milkpail water pail and canny pail..	0	7	2
One Barrel full and firken half full of sope ....	1	4	0
four Cider Barrels almost as good as as new ....	0	12	0
one pounding tub with 160 weight of beef ....	3	12	0
one pounding tub with 180 weight of pork ....	6	0	0
two bushels of indien and one of ry meal ....	0	9	0
flower perhaps no more than 14 weight ....	0	6	0

Three chiezes about eight pounds			
each . . . . .	0	16	0
Three pounds of butter . . . . .	0	3	0
a firken with six pounds of hogs			
fat . . . . .	0	6	0
six pounds of candles . . . . .	0	6	0
a new icder firken with 30 weight of			
shuger . . . . .	1	2	0
Coffee twelve pounds . . . . .	0	14	0
fifty weight of flax . . . . .	2	0	0
Eight pounds of wool . . . . .	6	0	0
pair of Cotton Cards . . . . .	0	5	0
two common cheirs . . . . .	0	6	6
beadstead and whale sinew cord . . . .	1	4	0
two large brown stone pots . . . . .	0	3	0
one large white stone pot for butter .	0	4	0
one Dozen chunk bottles . . . . .	0	9	0
Cloaths brush, harth brush and flore			
brush . . . . .	0	9	0
Six milk pans 4 quarts apeace . . . .	0	4	0
two ginn gugs . . . . .	0	1	0
one black gug held 3 quarts . . . . .	0	1	2
two earthen pots . . . . .	0	1	6
bread trough common size . . . . .	0	6	0
paire of seal skin saddle bags . . . .	0	18	0
two large cloathes baskets . . . . .	0	6	0
One Iron candlestick and pair of			
snuffers . . . . .	0	4	0

1 cord of wood .....	1	0	0
Snuffers .....	0	4	0
Barrel of sand .....	0	4	0
Pair of steel spurs .....	0	6	0
four flower barrels .....	0	6	0
	<hr/>		
	67	14	3

## The REV'D ERASMUS KELLEY

lost almost all his furniture which

cannot be Estimated at less than £60

JOB MILLER'S LOSS.....	139	0	0
CALEB SALISBURY'S LOSS..	12	0	0
MARY SIMS' LOSS .....	11	10	0
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Total Loss .....£12,101 17 03

## THE "GENERAL STARK."

The privateer "General Stark" was a sloop of about 130 tons burden and mounted 14 guns. She was owned by Lebaron Bradford, Benjamin Pearce, Samuel Browne, Nathan Miller, and Cromwell Child. Her officers and crew were Benjamin Pearce, Captain; Josiah Church, 1st Lieut.; Dan'l Scovil, 2d. Lieut.; Chris. Prince, Master; Jno. Bartlett, Surgeon; Edmund Tiley, P. Master; Simon DeWolf, P. Master; Benjamin Fry, Officer of Marines, and 2nd. M.; Geo. Viall, Boatswain; Jona Carr, Carpenter, Benj. Cranston, Sen'r, Thos. Tripp, Master's Mate; Peter McMillen, Jno. Wilbur, Nathan San-

ders, Caleb Hill, James Allen, Alexander Mason, Wm. DeWolf (boy,) Augustus Sanders, Warren Easterbrooks, Preserved Alger (boy,) James Bowen, Thomas Cole, Wm. Gorham, John Bowen, Haile Child, Lenox Bullock, Geo. Shaw, Pomp Gardner, Cuff Nixon, Nelson Miller, Wm. Brown, Caleb Miller, Jos. Rhodes, Jared Holmes, Isaac Babcock, Jun., David Brown (boy,) Paul Burdick, Henry Champlin, James Hancox, P. Master; James W. Brayton, Peleg Hancox, Gilbert Thomas (boy,) William Easterbrooks, Joshua Palmer, P. Master; William Sheffield, Joshua Gladding, Andrew Cheeseborough, Josiah Sanborn, George Welles, Wm. Hammet, Elisha Tilton (boy,) Solomon Daggett, ——— Daggett, Daniel Babcock, Collings York, Jun., Gardner Stanton, Jos. Brand, Josiah Wardwell, Stephen Andrews, Preserved Briggs, Thomas Finney, David Latham, Sylvester Haile, Lairs Crandall, John Burdick, Robert Fisto (boy,) Nathan Brand, Prize Master.

#### LETTER OF WILLIAM TURNER MILLER.

“Hunter off James Town in James River  
Virginia, September 19, 1781.

“Dear Lydia—I arrived here three days agoe after being 15 days at Sea and the Rest of the time which hath Elapsed since the 25 of august in the Chess-

peek, we had Some pretty Rough Weather at Sea but we all arrived safe but Rufus Barton's vessel which parted from the fleet in a Gale of Wind on the 10th day of our passage as near as I can Remember and we have not heard from him Since but presume they have Returned to Rhode Island, there is now Lying in the Harbor, the Hunter—the Delight—the Lydia—the Molly and two other Small Vessels that Sailed with us from Rhode Island. Captain James Martin's Vessel is at Cape Charles about 100 miles from hence but he is here himself all the people are in good health and High Spirits belonging to the fore mentioned Vessels. I unloaded what hospital Stores I had on board yesterday and am Lying to wait for orders where to Land my Provisions—and it is Impossible for me to tell when that will be as the Event of a battle between the Two Armies may decide the matter so that the time and place for Landing the provisions be better known. Lord Cornwallis Lies on a Neck of Land between this and York River with about 6 Thousand Troops besides Refugees and Negroes perhaps to the amount of 3 Thousand and more which they Say are so badly Armed and Disciplined as can Render him but little Service. Gen. Roshambeau and the Marquis are Said to have an Army of about 20 Thousand good Troops and I think from all Circumstances that Cornwallis must fall but I believe he will fight first



he hath a Large number of Transports in York River but they will not avail him to make his escape for Count DeGrass and Count Barrass with their Combined fleets Lies in the Chessapeek in both fleets is 35 Sail of the Line besides Frigates and they have Sent Ships up to block York River which puts an Effectual Stop to the British by water. There were a few days agoe 27 Ships of the British Line seen just at the Mouth of the Chesapeake who I dare say wish to come in with Safety but the French appear to wish for no better Sport than to meet them.

The French Captured Two British Frigates who attempted to come in while I Lay in sight of them about a week agoe. I hope to be able to Load my vessel with Corn home on my own account as Corn here could be purchased for Six Shillings pr. Barrell (which is five Bushells) my hogshead of Rum I have sold part of for Two Dollars a gallon and make no doubt I shall Dispose of the Rest as well. I expect Capt. Stephen Olney on board to Dine with me to-day it is impossible to tell you when to Look for me home I wish it may be within one month but don't be Impatient if it be Two. I am my dearest your most Effectionate & Loving Husband,

WILLIAM T. MILLER.



## ANCIENT LANDMARKS.

The Baptist meeting-house destroyed by the British troops was located near the site of the present stone church at the corner of Main and Miller streets. It was a plain wooden structure, having upon the roof a cupola surmounted by a vane. Within the cupola hung a bell, bearing the date 1764. This bell was bought in England and paid for with tobacco, and was generally styled the "tobacco bell." In this meeting-house was held the first commencement of Rhode Island College, now Brown University, which was originally situated in Warren. South of the meeting-house stood the parsonage built by subscription in 1765 and designed for the Rev. James Manning then pastor of the church and his successors. The cost of the parsonage was £4630 "old tenor."

The building at the corner of Main and Market streets, now occupied by the Warren Bank was, in 1778, one of the finest residences in the town and was painted a peach-bloom tint. When the powder magazine on the opposite corner blew up this house was considerably damaged. Among other houses still standing in Warren which were built prior to the Revolution, are the Gen. Miller house, at the foot of Miller street., the Baker house, corner Water and Baker streets, the brick house at the corner of Water and Church streets, the Hail house, corner Washing-

ton and Water streets, the old Ormsbee house, located on the west side of Main street between Broad and Wheaton streets, and the Bowen house at the junction of Water and Main streets. Some of the farm-houses in the east part of the town are probably older than the houses in the compact portion. Cole's Hotel erected in 1762 was destroyed by fire in 1893. This building was one of the most interesting landmarks of Warren.

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